

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 045221

R 061400Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1597

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: INDEPENDENTS STEAL "SWEEPING VICTORY" FROM
MATANZIMA IN THIRD TRANSKEI GENERAL ELECTION

REF: DURBAN 0376

1. ALTHOUGH TRANSKEI'S OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) STRENGTH CUT TO TEN SEATS AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, UNEXPECTED EMERGENCE OF EIGHT INDEPENDENT VICTORS DENIED MATANZIMA'S RULING TRANSKEI NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (TNIP) SWEEPING VICTORY MOST OBSERVERS HAD PREDICTED IN HOMELAND'S THIRD GENERAL ELECTION OCTOBER 24.

2. INSTEAD, TNIP REDUCED TO 25 SEATS, FIVE LESS THAN IN LAST ASSEMBLY. TNIP MAJORITY AMONG ELECTED MEMBERS TRANSKEI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (TLA) NOW CUT TO SEVEN, WITH TWO ELECTIVE SEATS YET TO BE FILLED. YET OVERWHELMING TNIP STRENGTH AMONG 65 CHIEFS WHO SIT IN 110 MEMBER LEGISLATIVE BODY WILL ASSURE MATANZIMA CONTINUATION FIRM LEGISLATIVE CONTROL HE HAS DEVELOPED SINCE 1968 ELECTION.

3. PREVIOUS HIGH FOR INDEPENDENTS HAD BEEN THREE FOLLOWING
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1968 ELECTION, BUT INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES HAVE TRADITIONALLY

CROSSED FLOOR TO EITHER DP OR TNIP AT FIRST SITTING OF NEW ASSEMBLY. SOME OBSERVERS NOW SPECULATING, HOWEVER, THAT BEST KNOWN OF INDEPENDENT WINNERS, FORMER CABINET MINISTER CURNICK NDAMSE, WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM TNIP JULY 1973 AND THEN FOUGHT OFF DETERMINED PERSONAL CAMPAIGN BY MATANZIMA AND WON SEAT AS INDEPENDENT, MAY DRAW ON INDEPENDENT STRENGTH TO LAUNCH THIRD PARTY.

4. COMMENT: ELECTION WAS BLOW TO BOTH OPPOSITION DP AND RULING TNIP, ALTHOUGH FINAL LINE-UP IN TLA WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL NEW BODY CONVENES NEAR END OF NOVEMBER, AT WHICH TIME SOME INDEPENDENTS MAY CROSS TO EITHER DP OR TNIP OR RALLY AROUND RUMORED THIRD PARTY BID BY NDAMSE. EVEN IF NDAMSE MOVE DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, EMERGENCE OF INDEPENDENTS APPEARS TO REFLECT DISENCHANTMENT WITH TRANSKEI'S HIGHLY POLARIZED INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE, WHERE DP IS IDEOLOGICALLY MULTI-RACIAL AND TNIP PRO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. MATANZIMA HAS BEEN SILENT ON RESULTS THUS FAR AS IS NO WONDER; HE HAS LITTLE TO CROW ABOUT.
HOLMES

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